GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2918
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2003
ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE DUE TO POLLUTION
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the estimated cost of environmental damages in the country due to pollution, soil degradation, deforestation etc., during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to contain pollution from processing industries;

(d) whether the Government proposes to seek help from Environmental Experts and other agencies to contain environmental damages; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE)

(a)&(b)The Government have not worked the estimated cost of environmental damage in the country due to water pollution, air pollution and deforestation etc. However, the cost of environmental degradation have been estimated by the World Bank and The Energy Research Institute(TERI)According to the World Bank, the estimated cost of environmental degradation for the year 1991-92 adds up to 4.8% of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and the economic values of environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources in 1997 according to TERI are as follows :

Problem	Annual Economic Value (Rs. Billion)
Poor quality of drinking water and its effect on human health	122
Loss of crop productivity due to soil degradation	89-232
Loss of wood due to forest degradation	57
Air pollution and its impact on human health	885-4250

(c) To contain pollution from processing industries, emission and effluent norms have been notified and monitoring is undertaken to ensure compliance to the notified standards by the industries.

(d)&(e) Environmental experts and agencies like Technical & Scientific Institutions, Industrial Associations, Universities etc. are associated during formulation of policies, plans and standards for control of environmental pollution.